

## Message Text

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TO US CUSTOMS SERVICE HQ WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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CUSTOMS FOR ALLSHOUSE, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS DIV.

STATE FOR S/NM FOR VANCE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR/MEX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS DETECTOR DOG TRAINING

REF: UNCLAS CUSTOMS 5854

1. ON SEPT 3, 1976 CUSATT MEXICO TALKED TO MAURICIO DURAN PORRAS ONE OF THE MEXICAN OFFICERS WHO RECENTLY RECEIVED DETECTOR DOG TRAINING BY U.S. CUSTOMS IN FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA.

2. DURAN STATED THAT UPON RETURNING FROM HIS TRAINING IN THE US HE WAS ASSIGNED TO A SUPERVISORS SCHOOL WITH THE MFJP. DUE TO THIS ASSIGNMENT HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SPEND SUFFICIENT TIME WITH THE DOG. HOWEVER, HE HAS USED THE DOG AT THE MEXICO CITY AIRPORT FROM TIME TO TIME WITH LIMITED RESULTS.

3. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AT THE AIRPORT HAS BEEN WITH NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OF FOOD IN SUITCASES ARRIVING FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA. THE DOG HAS CONSISTENTLY ALERTED IN THESE SITUATIONS, PROVING HELPFUL TO THE MEXICAN PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS BUT DISAPPOINTING TO THE MFJP.

4. ANOTHER PROBLEM, ACCORDING TO DURAN, IS THAT THE DOG'S ABILITY TO DETECT COCAINE HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEAVY RAINFALL HERE. DURAN BELIEVES THAT THE MOISTURE ON

BAGGAGE ESPECIALLY HAS HAMPERED THEIR EFFORTS. IN ADDITION ONE OF THE DOGS, FRITZ, IS SICK AS A RESULT OF FLOODING IN THE KENNELS.

5. ALTHOUGH BAGGAGE IS INSPECTED WITH THE DOGS OUTSIDE THE BAGGAGE CLAIM AREA, PASSENGERS CAN SEE THE HANDLER AND DOG AT WORK IF THEY STAND NEAR THE WALL IN THE CONVEYER BELT AREA. MFJP AND MEXICAN CUSTOMS BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE DOG HAS DETERRED COCAINE SMUGGLING THROUGH MEXICO CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. ACCORDING TO THE COMANDANTE OF THE MFJP AT THE AIRPORT, SEIZURES DROPPED OFF MARKEDLY DURING THE PERIOD THE DOG WAS BEING USED.

6. IN ADDITION TO DURAN'S COMPLAINT THAT HE HASN'T HAD TIME TO PROPERLY WORK THE DOG, HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET AUTHORIZATION FROM HIS SUPERIOS TO OBTAIN HEROIN FOR ROUTINE EXERCISE AND TRAINING PURPOSES. DURAN ALSO REMARKED THAT PLANS TO USE THE DOGS AT SEAPORTS FOR VESSEL SEARCH IN CONNECTION WITH MARIHUANA HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY CANCELLED.

7. DURAN IS USING THE DOG MAINLY ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS SUCH AS SEARCHING SUSPECT HOUSES. HE REPORTS THAT ONE SEIZURE OF COCAINE AND SEVERAL SEIZURES OF MARIHUANA CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE DOG. NO FOLLOW-UP VISIT IS RECOMMENDED AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE DOG HANDLER'S HEAVY WORK AND TRAINING SCHEDULE. CUSATT WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT OTHER DOG HANDLER LUIS SOPELANA HERNANDEZ AND REPORT ON ANYTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE.

8. COMMENT: FOLLOWING DEBRIEFING OF SOPELANA, NARCOTICS COORDINATOR WILL RAISE QUESTION OF DOG UTILIZATION WITH GERTZ OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.  
THOMPSON

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